

Carbonate of Iron, from Cecil county, Maryland.—From Dr. Geo. Spackman.

Trionyx ferox? from a stream tributary to Lake Erie, in Monroe county, Michigan.—From Dr. G. C. Leib.

Four skulls of the Ottawa tribe of Indians from Michigan.—Collected by Dr. Leib, and deposited by Dr. Morton.

DONATIONS TO LIBRARY.

Lettre sur le Rhopalodon, genre de Saurien fossile du versant occidental de l'oural. Par G. Fischer de Waldheim. 8vo. St. Petersburg, Russia, 1841.—From the Author.

Dr. Edward Hallowell read the following paper on a new species of Reptile; viz.

Description of a new species of Chameleon from Western Africa, by Edward Hallowell, M. D.

CHAMÆLEO gracilis.—Description. Head of moderate size, flattened above, depressed in front, presenting upon its upper surface a longitudinal carina, bifurcated anteriorly; each of the divisions resulting from this bifurcation, terminates near the posterior extremity of the supraciliary ridge; in front of the eye is a ridge continuous with the one above the orbit, extending toward the extremity of the nose. No denticulations are observed upon the supraciliary ridge, on the one just described, nor upon the longitudinal carina, or its divisions; but they are very distinct along the superior margin of the temples. A number of small tubercles are seen upon the face, quite near to the extremity of the nose, and also upon the sides of the head in front of the nostril; a marked concavity exists upon the upper and posterior part of the head, immediately behind the bifurcation of the longitudinal carina; the space in front comprised between the two branches is perfectly plane; the head is covered above with polygonal scales of unequal size, and smooth for the most part; those situated in the depressions upon the upper and posterior part of the head are somewhat



larger and more uniform in size than those upon the vertex and face ; scales upon the sides of the head of nearly uniform size, many of them tuberculated ; there are nineteen teeth on each side of the upper and lower jaw ; scales upon the sides of the body of various shapes, some of them hexagonal, others pentagonal ; the greater number are quadrangular : they vary also in size ; those upon the body, near the spine, are the largest ; some of the scales present a plane surface, others are more or less convex, and many on examination with a glass are observed to have a very distinctly elevated point in the centre ; numerous small granules are interspersed between the scales upon the abdomen ; none are observed upon the sides : scales upon the throat irregular in size and shape, many of them tuberculated, those along the median line the largest ; scales upon the abdomen granular, of nearly equal size, many of them presenting an elevated point in the centre ; those upon the under surface of the tail oblong, hexagonal, some of them pentagonal, many of them with a depression in the centre ; those upon the under surface of the hands and toes very distinctly quadrangular, arranged in transverse rows ; extremities slender ; tail somewhat longer (about a fourth of an inch) than total length of head and body.

Colour.—The predominating colour is green, presenting different shades under different circumstances ; at times, the snout and margin of the jaws, the neck, limbs and tail are marked with ferruginous ; and a narrow vitta of a light chocolate colour is seen extending from the axilla to near the groin ; the whole of the body presents at times the latter colour, mixed with dusky green or ferruginous ; a triple row of black spots is observed upon the tail, extending from the root to within a short distance of its extremity ; a similar row exists upon the back, corresponding with the transverse processes of the vertebræ : while one side of the animal presents these shades, the other, or that which is less exposed to the light, is of a uniform pea-green colour, except the lateral vitta and a small spot above the shoulder, which are of a light flesh colour, and at times perfectly white ; on exposing the animal suddenly to the light of a candle, on one occasion, four or five irregular bands

of a light chocolate colour were observed upon the body, extending from the back to the middle line of the belly, the intervening spaces as well as the bands themselves being marked with numerous dark coloured spots; these bands often became dark green, the intervening spaces being a shade or two lighter; seven or eight converging bands of the same dark green colour are observed upon the eyelids, their lower broadest part being directed towards the margin of the orbit; pupil black; iris golden; under surface of belly, groins, axillæ, as well as inner surface of extremities, whitish with a shade of green. The same banded appearance above described, was frequently observed when the animal was in exercise, as when employed in efforts to get out of its cage, or when allowed to walk upon the table or floor; when quiescent these bands were rarely noticed. On the 9th of July she laid twenty eggs; these were perfectly white, without spots, and of an oval figure; for several days she had been restless, and was employed the greater part of the day in scratching in one of the corners at the bottom of the cage; the coloration of the animal at this period was different from that noticed at any other; the whole body presented a deep copperas green color, changing at times to a dusky brown: at times the body has a mottled appearance; at others four or five dark coloured transverse bands were noticed, the intervening spaces, as well as the bands, presenting numerous light green spots upon a ground of dusky green; on turning the animal suddenly round to the light, the side opposite to that described, appeared of a rich sap green colour, changing in a few moments to a deep bottle green, the transverse bands becoming less and less distinct; the spot over the shoulder and the lateral vitta were reddish brown: immediately after death the green assumed a yellowish tint, and two large blotches appeared on each side of the body of the colour of lamp black.

Sept. 11, 1841. The animal has now been immersed in alcohol for more than a year, and presents a very different appearance from that which existed during life; the head, sides of the body, tail and upper surface of extremities are of a light bluish or leaden colour; the dark coloured blotches upon the sides are visible, but

much less distinct than at the time of the death of the animal; throat, abdomen, and under surface of extremities and tail, whitish; the spot upon the shoulder and lateral vitta are dirty white.

Dimensions. Length of head, one inch (Fr.): greatest breadth six lines; height seven lines; length of neck two lines; of body two inches eight lines; of tail four inches seven lines; of anterior extremities two inches; of posterior one inch. (These measurements were taken after the specimen had been long immersed in spirits.)

Habits.—The animal arrived in this city from New York on the 12th of June, 1840. During the first three days its appetite was good, spending the greater part of the time in catching flies by means of its long extensible tongue, which on one or two occasions it was observed to protrude to the extent of nine inches. The motions of the animal were very sluggish, passing almost the whole of the day upon the perch of the cage in which it was kept, turning the eyes in every direction in search of flies, which were no sooner within reach than the tongue was protruded with the rapidity of lightning, and the insect rapidly drawn into the mouth. In the three or four following days, which were rainy and cold for the season, her appetite appeared to have failed; during this time she was not seen to catch a fly, although many were quite near, but she often descended from the perch to drink; notwithstanding her indisposition to eat, she would watch for hours the motions of the flies about the cage, the eyes preserving their accustomed brilliancy of expression. On being placed upon a plane surface, she walked with more care, and often with more rapidity than might have been expected from the pineer-like arrangement of the feet and hands, the fingers and toes being fully extended; but the usual manner of progression and general appearance of the animal when in motion, corresponded with the description of those given by Valisnieri. During the time that she was laying her eggs, she did not eat, nor had she taken food for several days previous; she became greatly emaciated, and died almost immediately after their expulsion from the body.

Habitat.—Liberia, in Western Africa.

General observations. The specimen above described was purchased by the Rev. Charles Eden, of Monrovia, of one of the African natives, and sent to Dr. Blanding of this city, who, with his accustomed liberality, placed it in my hands for observation and description. A drawing of the animal was recently shown to M. Bibran, of the Garden of Plants, by the artist who made it, who informs me that he considers it as new.

*Dr. Goddard stated that he had examined the so-called “*Missouriium Kochii*,” and found it to be a skeleton composed of Mastodon bones, most of which appeared to belong to a single set, many, however, having been superadded, and others mended and glued together in a manner wholly erroneous.

The following errors were especially noticed:

Spine.—The spine presented the anomaly of 8 cervical vertebræ; and instead of 19 dorsal and 4 lumbar, had 23 dorsal and 10 lumbar vertebræ, making the number of bones in the spine too great by 11. The bones articulated with the 2nd and 4th ribs were cervical vertebræ. The spaces between the vertebræ were much magnified by thick wooden blocks placed between them, and the spine was curved upwards, so as to give an exaggerated idea of the height of the animal.

Ribs.—These were redundant in number, and were spread out as much as possible, so as to present the appearance of a wide and flat chest. The 1st pair of ribs were stuck on the bones of the shoulder, to resemble clavicles—bones which the Mastodon does not possess.

Head.—The head was that of a Mastodon with the top deficient, and a piece of an ethmoidal? bone glued on in front to

*This communication was made to the Society at the meeting of October 12th. The MS. having been inadvertently mislaid, its contents could not be inserted in their proper place.—EDITORS.